THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) Displacement of persons takes place due to acquisition of private land and/or removal of encroachers from public land to meet the requirement of planned development of the city. Eligible jhuggi dwellers from public land are relocated by allotment of land as per the current policy. Alternate plots have been allotted in the past to farmers in view of acquisition of land in some cases.

Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has formulated a policy to provide allotment of flats/shops to eligible persons affected by Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System projects.

DMRC has resettled 4559 structures consisting of residential and jhuggis as well as 4620 non-residential structures.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that it has relocated approximately 60,000 jhuggi families at various relocation sites in Delhi since 1990-91.

Indians in UK and USA

1291. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue with the US and UK where nearly 16 lakh people in US and 12 lakh people in UK are residing at present for changing the existing treaties to ensure that Indian laws apply to people wherever they reside so that if Indian citizens ill-treat their wives or violate the law, they can be recalled to India;

(b) whether his Ministry has received complaints about 30,000 women who have either been deserted after marriage or been cheated by the groom's families; and

(c) if so, to what extent his Ministry has got response from those Governments?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has received about 168 complaints from women who have either been deserted after marriage or been cheated by the groom's families. These complaints have been forwarded to the concerned authorities for appropriate action. At present there is no such treaty with the US and UK government on this issue and there is no such proposal.

Women as household service workers in Gulf countries

1292. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian women working as household service workers in the Gulf region;

(b) the number of countries including Gulf countries, with which Government of India has entered into Labour Welfare Pacts;

(c) the number of countries with whom negotiations are on for signing such Pacts;

(d) whether Government are contemplating a ban on housemaid going to work in countries with which Indian does not have a Labour Welfare Pact; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The number of Indian Women Household Service Workers (HSWs) in the gulf region is estimated to be around 5 lakhs.

(b) and (c) In December, 2006 the Government signed an MoU with United Arab Emirates and in April, 2007 with Kuwait. The Ministry has finalized an additional protocol with Qatar to update the 1985 agreement. MoU with Malaysia has been initialed. Efforts are on to sign the MoU with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and Yemen. There is a proposal to sign a new MoU with Jordan to replace the old agreement.

(d) and (e) The Government of India will make concerted diplomatic efforts for signing the bilateral labour MoUs with all major labour receiving countries. If diplomatic efforts fail to fructify in case of any particular country appropriate decision will be taken in the best interest of the emigrant workers.

Indian household workers in foreign countries

1293. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning measures for the benefit of its nationals working as household workers in foreign countries, including a minimum fixed wage that would have to be paid to them by their employers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have signed MoUs with the concerned countries;

(d) if so, with how many countries such agreements have been signed; and

(e) in what manner Government would enforce these measures on foreign nationals?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, specific policy initiatives have been taken for better protection and welfare of our workers especially the vulnerable sections like women emigrants. The initiatives include installation of a 24/7 Helpline in the host countries, application of the age restriction of 30 years to all women emigrants having ECR passports, defining a minimum wage, compulsory attestation of employment documents for all women emigrants with ECR passports, operation of shelters for distressed emigrants, putting diplomatic pressure on persuading host countries to extend the protection of labour laws to the workers in .the informal sector and signing formal MoUs for bilateral labour cooperation aimed at protection and welfare of emigrant workers.